

March 6, 1984

LB 809

and not told that had not this gone through, your property tax would have been higher, therefore, you should be happy. I think that a direct property tax relief coming from the State of Nebraska will at least prove to the people in the State of Nebraska that we are trying to give them some direct property tax relief. I support the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell, do you wish to close? This is the last bill we're taking today.

SENATOR NEWELL: Well, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I appreciate the support for LB 809 and I appreciate the co-sponsors and I appreciate the arguments that many have made and sometimes the faint praise that they have offered for this bill. I have never ever indicated that this is the only thing that we should do or that this alone will provide substantially the amount of property tax relief that this state ought to provide for the individuals and the taxpayers of Nebraska. I published, as you well know, a property tax relief proposal earlier this year. I introduced seven bills. This is one of three survivors. This proposal is only a piece in the puzzle. It is one way of providing property tax relief. Now here's how we tried to provide property tax relief in the past and we've been somewhat successful. We've taken over Medicaid, that is truly a state responsibility and frankly, that is a rational way of providing property tax relief. We've provided state aid to education. It cuts the increase and sometimes it is provided substantial property tax relief to individual taxpayers in the State of Nebraska. We have looked at other sorts of mechanisms either state paying for certain provisions or other things. We have Senator Remmers's and Senator Sieck's proposal. I am not knocking those proposals. They look more attractive by the day. There are, in fact, many ways to provide property tax relief. This is not enough but it is a beginning. This is not everything but it is the first proposal to come forth. For that reason, I urge this Legislature to advance it to Select File. The dollar amounts may not be absolutely correct. They may have to be increased as Senator DeCamp and Senator Pappas suggest. They may have to be decreased as some others suggest. They may stay the same, but I say that we